

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE FREEBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
August 15, 2023**

Approved Sept 19, 2023

The council of Freeburg Borough, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, held its regular monthly meeting on this date in the meeting room of the Freeburg Community Building. Members of the council present were: Tabbetha VanHorn-Price, Chairperson, presiding; Catherine Dent, Donald Mervine, John Wiegler, Angela Weaver, Shawn Hokenbrough and Weston Hoffman

Others present were: Attorney Cravitz, Trent Hoffman, Wayne Enders, James Emery, CK-COG; and Wanda Kantz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by John Wiegler and seconded by Donald Mervine the minutes of July 18, 2023 meeting were approved by the Borough Council.

On a motion by Donald Mervine the bills to be paid were approved and seconded Angela Weaver the motion was approved by Borough Council. All submitted bills will be paid.

One late bill was submitted for payment from Kreamer Automotive for \$225.51, for inspection and service to the borough dump truck. ***Weston Hoffman made a motion to approve the payment of \$225.51 to Kreamer Automotive, Catherine Dent seconded and the Borough Council approved the additional bill payment.***

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Building Permit Request for 6 West Market Street – The Property owners are requesting approval for construction of garage in the rear of the property. After review, ***Doanld Mervine made a motion to approve the permit request 6 West Market Street, John Wiegler Price seconded; the Borough Council unanimously approved the building permit for 6 West Market Street.***

301 East New Market Street, Draining Issues – The Property owners of 301 East New Market Street shared concerns regarding storm water runoff flooding their garage and property. The council will have the borough employees look at the issues and Wanda Kantz will contact of Penn DOT representative for possible solutions.

REPORTS FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO. – Kevin Meiser shared service report from July 18 to August 15, 2023. There were 3 calls in the borough, 12 calls in Washinton Township and 4 mutual aid calls for a total of 19 calls.

Painting of Fire Hydrates – This is the borough’s responsibility. Painting will be planned for the Spring/Summer 2024.

Upcoming Fire Company Events-

3rd Annual 9/11 Memorial Hill Climb – Saturday, September 9, 2023; opening ceremonies to begin at approximately 8:15 am with the climb to begin at 8:46 am. \$10 registration fee.

Chicken Half BBQ Sale – Saturday, September 9 starting at 11 am until? \$7.00/half, to pre-order call 570-975-9446 by September 1, 2023.

CENTRAL KEYSTONE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CK-COG) – August 2023 report reviewed. CK-COG will be discussing at their upcoming meeting a policy for Firearms/Weapons.

PESI REPORT – The August 2023 report from PESI regarding the Waste Water System was reviewed. No issues for Council action this month.

WWTP Corrective Action Plan Response– Josh Owens presented a Memorandum with potential corrective action plans for the WWTP. Josh Owens submitted the CAP response to DEP. CAP was accepted by DEP on December 9, 2022. A CAP update was submitted April 28, 2023. Ordinance education and remediation survey was included with the 2nd quarter water & sewer bills, on June 30, 2023. The most recent request for an additional 12 EDUs was denied by DEP.

CCTV Inspection – CCTV inspection has been completed. Reports has been completed and to be sent to DEP on May 17, 2023. The inspection noted three major areas of repairs.

Smoke Testing Notices for Remediation- Notices for self-reporting of remediation will be sent out with water and sewer bill the end of June 2023.

Sewer Surveys – Josh Owens will begin compiling data from the sewer surveys that have been returned from residents.

PA Small Water and Sewer Grant – Josh Owens has begun preparing a grant application for lining sewer line in the Borough, with a \$500,000.00 grant we would be able to complete lining half of the town’s sewer lines. Lining areas will be determined by the CCTV investigation. Grant application was submitted on December 21, 2022. Grant determinations have been delayed at least until September 2023.

Blower #1 – Will be replaced with a smaller more efficient blower, that in stock and will be much easier to repair in the future.

Blower #2 - is experiencing issues, PESI is getting quote for new slide rails, sheaves and belts. Quote will be reviewed at a future meeting.

High Flow Pump Issues – The high flow pump is not working properly; PESI will pull the pump and evaluate the issues.

Cross-Connection on Market Street – During smoke testing a cross connection issue was discovered on Market Street. Ways to further test this issue is to do dye test during a heavy rain event and/or lateral camera testing of the lines. *Tabbatha Vanhorn Price made a motion to continue with further testing to find the cross-connection issue, Donald Mervine seconded the motion the Borough Council unanimously approved the*

motion. PESI will continue testing on the cross-connection issue. Josh Owens will look into dye testing for this issue.

Future Waste Water Treatment Plant Project – The WWTP area has been surveyed to help facilitate planning for future WWTP projects.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT –

Nitrate Removal System – The Nitrate Removal Systems is currently running; issues are being trouble shot as they arise.

Currently, daily nitrate levels have be between 4.5 and 5.50 mg/l.

PA Small Water & Sewer Grant – This grant program is for project under \$500,000.00. The FMA has submitted a grant application this grant program. Freeburg Municipal Authority was awarded a grant for **\$418,000.00**. A one-year extension has been requested for this grant.

Timber Bids – The FMA will be timbering approximately 121 trees at the reservoir. The bids were opened at the July 13, 2023 meeting.

Level Monitoring Systems Bids Have Been Requested - HRG has requested bids for the level monitoring system. Bids will be opened at the September 14, 2023 meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – *Catherine Dent, Chair; Angela Weaver and Tabbetha VanHorn Price.*

Coverage for Brough Secretary – The Committee is still looking for someone to help cover office hours at the Borough Office to cover vacations, etc. for the borough secretary.

Revised Employee Manual – A draft copy of the employee manual was distributed for review. ***Tabbetha VanHorn Price made a motion to approve the proposed employee manual, Angela Weaver seconded, and the Borough Council unanimously approved the 2023 revised employee manual.*** Wanda Kantz will get copies of the 2023 revised employee manual to all employees and copies of their individual job descriptions.

ORDINANCES & PLANNING – *Tabbetha VanHorn Price, Chair, Donald Mervine, Shawn Hokenbrough.*

Central Keystone Council of Governments Report – CK-COG has been doing random patrols throughout the Borough regarding property issues. The current CK-COG report was presented for review.

Crosswalk at Post Office – Tabbetha VanHorn Price and Fred Moyer, Mayor have a meeting planned with Penn DOT to discuss a crosswalk at the Post Office.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *Angela Weaver, Chair, Catherine Dent and Weston Hoffman*

Borough Website – The borough website is now live. The web address is www.freeburghorough.com

PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES AND SAFETY – *Weston Hoffman, Chair, John Wiegler and Shawn Hokenbrough.*

Community Center Income – August 2023 income was \$1,066.00

2023 County Aid Project – The 2023 County Aid Project has been submitted and approved. Wanda Kantz will work on ordering new street signs for Front Street with east and west notations.

Bridge repairs – The Committee reviewed the bridge survey report and made a recommendation to start with the Front Street Bridge between Willow & Center Square Street. Penn Dot stated there is not enough info on the report to compile a bid notice. Wanda Kantz has reached out to Stahl, Sheaffer for additional info for the bids. Repairs of the Front Street Cherry Run bridge are estimated at \$63,075.00; bridge replacement is estimated at \$394,013.00.

Drainage Issue at Soft Ball Field – Penn Dot has completed the revised draining project. Still some issues with Softball field drainage. Borough Council to work on additional resolution for this issue. Looking for additional grant to help with this issue.

Security System – Security cameras have been purchased and will be install in the near future. Currently Trent Hoffman is working on running the wiring for the security cameras.

Handicap Ramp for Borough Office Entrance. –Stahl, Sheaffer Engineering has provided the borough with a project estimate of \$40,000.00 for grant planning purposes.

Stump at Community Center – A stump grinder will be rented and the borough staff will grind the remain stump and remove.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

NEW BUSINESS –

Insurance Renewal – The Borough insurance policy will renew on October 7, 2023. Updated policy rates will be review at the September 19, 2023 meeting for approval.

COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS –

The next regular meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, September 19 2023 at 7 pm.

A motion was made by Donald Mervine, seconded by Weston Hoffman to adjourn. Motion carried. The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary